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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the fountain of wisdom, we thank You for those who guard our fragile gift of freedom. Thank You for Senators who more than self their country love, who daily make courageous decisions that keep us free. Lord, use the Members of this body to ensure that this precious gift of liberty will remain inviolate for those who come after us.

Thank You also for the brave souls, stout hearts, and indomitable spirits of those who have paid the ultimate price for the privileges we enjoy. Sustain and comfort the families they have left behind.

During this blessed moment of talking to You, we ask that Your presence will follow us throughout this day. As we labor, fix our thoughts and efforts on whatever is true, honest, just, pure, and productive. Support us today, Lord, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and our work receives Your commendation of "well done."

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 9, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will shortly vote on the cloture motion filed by the minority.

### AMENDMENTS TO S. 4

Mr. President, first, let me start with a letter written to me dated February 26. There was a comparable letter written to the Republican leader. The letter reads:

It has been exactly 14 years since the first attack on the World Trade Center; over 5 years since the terrorist attacks of 9/11; and over 2 years since the 9/11 Commission released a blueprint for strengthening America's security. The pace of Congressional response to these wake-up calls has been glacial.

The House of Representatives has validated its commitment to improving national security by passing H.R. 1. When S. 4 goes to conference, its provisions must match or sur-

pass the strength and comprehensiveness of H.R. 1. Failure to act ratchets up the danger for America. The longer critical security issues remain unresolved, the more time and options the terrorists have.

S. 4 should be a clean bill, limited to implementing the remaining 9/11 Commission recommendations. This legislation is far too important to be politicized by the introduction of non-germane, controversial amendments and debate, particularly those relating to Iraq. Attention to both issues is critically important. As such, each deserves separate deliberation.

We urge you to act now to protect America by passing stand-alone, comprehensive security legislation under S. 4 based on the 9/11 Commission blueprint without complications regarding Iraq. The legacy of those whose lives have been taken by terrorists on American soil is in your hands. Prove to the families of those killed in 1993 and 2001, and to all Americans, that this is a new day in Washington, and that safety and security will finally take precedence over special interest groups and politics.

Mr. President, the two managers of the bill, LIEBERMAN and COLLINS, have followed the admonition of that letter. They have worked very hard to have a clean bill. That is basically what we have. But I am sorry to report that of the 100-plus amendments filed, virtually all of them, except 7, are non-germane. To top it off, what the minority did is lumped a bunch of these non-germane amendments together and filed cloture on them.

Here is what the 9/11 families had to say about that. This is a letter to Senator MCCONNELL, dated March 8, 2007:

As family members who lost loved ones on 9/11, we support full implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. We are writing out of grave concern that your recent introduction of highly provocative, irrelevant amendments will jeopardize the passage of S. 4. It is inconceivable that anyone in good conscience would consider hindering implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and we strongly disagree with these divisive procedural tactics.

Just as the Iraq war deserves separate debate, so do each of the amendments you offered. S. 4 should be a clean bill and debate should conclude this week with a straight up

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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